

Washington, DC -- Today, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) announced \$57,532 for the Springport Fire District in Cayuga County through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP).

"This will enable the Springport Fire District to purchase the latest safety gear for its members – keeping firefighters safe while they protect our families," **said Arcuri, a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus**

. "Firefighters and first responders, many of them volunteers, work tirelessly to protect our families and property and it is vital that they have the most up-to-date equipment. I will continue working in Washington make sure local first-responders have the resources they need to protect our communities."

The Springport Fire District will use funds to purchase twenty sets of the latest firefighter turnout and improve firefighter safety. Springport also received a grant in 2002.

"We've been applying for this grant every year since 2002, and we are we happy to get one in 2007," **said Springport Fire Chief Garret Waldron**. "Having FEMA award this grant means a great saving to the community. We have been trying to outfit the firefighters for the latest safety standards and without this grant we wouldn't be able to."

Since taking office, Arcuri has announced over \$490,000 in Assistance to Firefighter Grants for emergency first responders in Cayuga County.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awards grants to firefighters, emergency response personnel and first responders to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of first responders and the citizens in their communities. AFGP grants provide resources for training, first responder health and safety programs, and response equipment and vehicles.

Since 2004, AFGP has provided a total of almost \$2.2 billion nationwide to first-responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment, and vehicles. In fiscal year 2007, AFGP will award approximately \$490 million directly to fire departments and

EMS organizations to enhance their response capabilities.

Legislation cosponsored by Arcuri to provide tax assistance for volunteer emergency responders to help area fire departments retain and recruit volunteers was included in the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act (H.R. 3997) which passed the House of Representatives in November.

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